

Anamosa. —Origin of Its Name

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worth while to at least try it, on the part of the good people that have been and are now ruined by railroads. I would at least advise them to send out a committee of explorers, to make a report at a future day.

✓ANAMOSA.---ORIGIN OF ITS NAME.

BY E. BOOTH, EDITOR OF THE ✓ANAMOSA EUREKA.

THE city council of Anamosa recently ordered the engraving of a municipal seal, with suitable device, and Mayor Dott has now had it done. It is of the usual shape and size, with the words, "SEAL OF THE CITY OF ANAMOSA, IOWA," around the border, and within the circle is the handsome figure of a White Fawn, the signification of the name Anamosa. And now for the origin of the name as applied to our city.

The writer of this came here in 1839, a little over thirty-four years ago, when ✓Indians were plenty enough to be often seen. In the summer of 1840, in partnership with Col. David Wood—who died in the following winter—we erected a frame house in what is now Brown Avenue, east of its intersection with High street. The place had been but recently laid out as a town, and named Dartmouth, but the plat was never recorded, and therefore the survey amounted to nothing. In 1841 Col. Wood died, and Gideon H. Ford, who came in 1838, married his widow, and we sold him our ownership in the dwelling. This was the first building erected in what is now Anamosa, and was the first frame dwelling built in the county. Mr. Ford removed it to the present site of the main building known as the old ✓Wapsipinicon Hotel, at the lower end of Main street, and it was used as a hotel for travelers and boarders until 1849,

when it was moved back, and the main building of the Wapsipinicon Hotel was erected, the structure of 1840 forming the rear portion. It was about the year 1842 when the original dwelling stood as above, and before it was overshadowed by its front and later addition, that we happened to be in this house one day as three Indians came in. At a glance it was seen they were not of the common, skin-dressed, half-wild, and dirty class. They were a man, woman, and daughter, and all wore a look of intelligence, quite different from the generally dull aspect of their race. The man and woman were dressed mostly in the costume of white people, with some Indian mixed, but the girl, bright and pleasant-faced, and apparently about eight or ten years old, was wholly in Indian dress. One can form some tolerable idea of her appearance from the carved, full-length figures sometimes found in front of tobacco and cigar shops in the cities. These are not always fancy figures, but taken from real life, though such are rarely, if ever, seen among Indians as they travel from one part of the country to the other. The girl was dressed as becomes the daughter of a chief. She was really a handsome girl, her dress was entirely Indian, bright as was the expression of her face, tasteful, and yet not gaudy. She wore ornamented leggings and moccasins, and her whole appearance was that of a well-dressed Indian belle.

It was evident that these Indians were, as we said, not of the common order, and this fact excited more interest in us and Mr. and Mrs. Ford—no other persons being present—than was usually the case at that day, when the sight of native sons and daughters of the wild frontier was a common occurrence. The three were entirely free from the dull, wary watchfulness of their kind, and though somewhat reserved at first, were possessed of an easy dignity. They readily became cheerful, and, but for their light red color, would be taken for well-bred white people. They were from Wisconsin, and on their way west.

We inquired their names. The father's was Nasinus; the

name of the mother was a longer one, and has escaped our memory. The name of the daughter was *Anamosa*, pronounced by the mother *An-a-mo-sah*, as is the usual Indian way, and corresponds to the Indian pronunciation of *Sar-a-to-gah*, the *Saratoga* of New York. When we asked the mother the name of her daughter, the latter laughed the pleasant, half-bashful laugh of a young girl, showing that she understood the question, but did not speak. This interview was decidedly agreeable all around. After more than an hour spent in this way, and having taken dinner, they departed on the military road westward, leaving a pleasant impression behind them.

It occurred to us that the names of the father and daughter were suitable for new towns,—in fact, infinitely preferable to repeating *Washington* and various others for the hundredth time. Unfortunately, we neglected to ascertain of them the meaning of their names, but, some years later, *Pratt R. Skinner* removed here from *Dubuque*, and established a land agency, and subsequently a dry goods store, under the firm name of *Skinner & Clark*. Mr. Skinner had been engaged in government surveys in this part of *Iowa*, and was no stranger to Indians and their language. He said the word *Anamosa* signified *White Fawn*, and the probability of such being the case is natural enough when we consider the Indian custom of naming persons from visible objects.

About this time, *Harry Mahan* and *John Crockwell* laid off a portion of the defunct *Dartmouth* west of *High street*, and named it *Lexington*. *Richard J. Cleveland*, we believe, of *Rome*—now *Olin*—was the surveyor, and we presume he suggested the name, he being a native of *Massachusetts*, and his patriotism always fully alive—so alive, that, though about sixty when the rebellion broke out, he insisted on, and obtained, a place as private in the ranks of the ninth infantry under his old and personal friend Colonel (now General) *Vandever*.

In 1847, by vote of the people, the county seat was re-

moved from [✓]Newport, three miles from what was then called Rome, to Lexington. Newport had but a single building, made of logs, the dwelling of Adam Overacker, [✓]who is now, we believe, a resident of California. The county seat had been removed, by a similar vote, from [✓]Edinburg to Newport two years previously, and the district court had been convened to meet there. Judge Thomas S. Wilson, [✓]of Dubuque, one of the then territorial judges, the lawyers, jury, witnesses, and the usual throng, came in, and there was no court house, and only the small log dwelling of Adam Overacker. Judge Wilson, naturally enough, was disgusted, and rather than hold court in the bushes and the tall, wild grass, that grew luxuriantly everywhere, he adjourned court and went home. Of course the crowd followed his example, and there was no court.

At the next session of the territorial legislature, and on petition of the people, a law was passed authorizing a free choice by popular vote. The law of two years previous had authorized the county commissioners to name two places, and the people to select one or the other, and thus the choice was between [✓]Cascade and Newport. On the first free vote — the point to be selected optional to all voters — no one place had a majority of all the votes cast, and, as provided by the new law, the two highest only were then voted on. This brought the county seat to Lexington.

Here was held the next meeting of the board of county commissioners, consisting of [✓]Charles P. Hutton, of Scotch Grove; [✓]Ambrose Parsons, of Fairview; and, if we remember correctly, [✓]Matthew Simpson, of Rome. William Hutton was county clerk then and for several years previous. The meeting of the board was in a small office which [✓]Mr. Ford had added to his dwelling, and in use by [✓]Pratt R. Skinner as a land office and by [✓]C. C. Rockwell as a law office. C. C. Rockwell, we may add, was the first lawyer who located in the county. He was a little below the average height, full in make, strong, cheerful, and of abundant vitality and energy, and at the next meeting of the legisla-

ture was chief clerk to one of the houses of the legislature.

At this meeting of the board we brought forward the subject of changing the name of the town, and thus avoiding the numerous delays and losses in mail matter, resulting from similarity of post office name, almost every northern state having its Lexington. Skinner and Rockwell joined in the move, but, on consultation, the board concluded they had no power in the premises, and that it was the province of the district court. At the next session of that court, a petition, gotten up mainly by Skinner and Rockwell, was presented. Judge Wilson assented, and since then the town has borne the name of Anamosa — pronounced An-a-mo-sa.

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

BY D. C. BLOOMER.

[Continued from page 628, vol. XI., No. 4.]

AT the October state election the whole number of votes cast in the county was two thousand one hundred and forty, and the republican majority was one hundred and thirty-one. The following officers were elected: Representative, John Bereshiem; county treasurer, John W. Chapman; auditor, E. W. Bowman; sheriff, Perry Reel; superintendent of schools, George L. Jacobs; county surveyor, E. W. Davenport; coroner, Henry Osborn. Of the above, Bowman and Reel were democrats, and all the others republicans. In Kane township Captain J. P. Williams was elected supervisor.

On the evening of the 28th of October a fire occurred in Council Bluffs, by which property to the amount of about

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